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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07
FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06 L-03
TRSE-00 /044 W
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R 280930Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2498
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/W
TAGS: ETRD, EWWT, UR, US
SUBJECT: MARINE CARGO INSURANCE

REF: MOSCOW 18997

1. PRIOR TO HIS MEETING ON DECEMBER 28 WITH NEW DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER V. M. IVANOV, E/C COUNSELOR WAS HANDED "NON-PAPER" BY A. MEL'NIKOV, ADMINISTRATION FOR TRADE WITH AMERICAN COUNTRIES, ON MARINE CARGO INSURANCE. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION.

2. BEGIN TEXT: IN CONNECTION WITH THE ORAL STATEMENT OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OF NOVEMBER 11, 1976 CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS ON INSURANCE QUESTIONS, THE USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE CANNOT AGREE EITHER WITH THE TONE NOR THE CONTENT OF THIS STATEMENT.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED AT THE NEGOTIATIONS IN LONDON IN JUNE 1976, THE SUBSEQUENT MEETING WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1976.

4. ON SEPTEMBER 3, THE AMERICAN SIDE PROPOSED TO HOLD THIS MEETING IN LONDON FROM NOVEMBER 10-12, 1976. THIS PROPOSAL
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WAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND IT WAS INTENDED TO AGREE WITH IT.

5. HOWEVER, THE DESIGNATION OF V. S. ALKHIMOV, WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH QUESTIONS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF FROEIGN TRADE, TO THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR

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STATE BANK ON OCTOBER 11, 1976 MADE IT DIFFICULT TO HOLD MEETINGS IN THE TIME-PERIOD INDICATED ABOVE, AND THIS WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW ON OCTOBER 14, 1976.

6. PRESENTLY, QUESTIONS CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN SIDE ON INSURANCE HAVE BEEN GIVEN OVER TO THE NEWLY DESIGNATED DEPUTY MINISTER V. M. IVANOV, WHO WILL HEAD THE SOVIET DELEGATION FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS ON INSURANCE. THESE NEGOTIATIONS, IF THE AMERICAN SIDE AGREES, CAN BE RESUMED IN LONDON AT THE END OF JANUARY-BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY 1977. END TEXT.

7. MEL'NIKOV, IN HANDING OVER THE NON-PAPER SAID HE REGRETTED THE NECESSITY TO EXCHANGE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS. AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT FUTURE ONES WOULD BE MORE POSITIVE. E/C COUNSELOR POINTED OUT TO MEL'NIKOV AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO DEPUTY MINISTER IVANOV THAT MR. BLACKWELL WOULD BE IN MOSCOW JANUARY 3-7. MEL'NIKOV COMMENTED THAT PERHAPS THE TIMING FOR THE INSURANCE TALKS COULD BE ARRANGED NEXT WEEK.

8. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT "NON-PAPER" REFERRED IN GENERAL TERMS TO TALKS ON INSURANCE (STRAKHOVANIE) AND NOT SPECIFICALLY MARINE CARGO. THIS COULD BE ANOTHER INDICATION THE SOVIETS WILL SEEK, AS THEY DID LAST JUNE, TO BROADEN THE SCOPE OF THE TALKS. NONETHELESS, AS PROMISED EARLIER, REFTEL, THE SOVIETS HAVE RESPONDED POSITIVELY.

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